

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /061 W

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O R 032039Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3863

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20481

FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV NATO WB GW US UK FR

SUBJECT: NATOMIN: COMMUNIQUE PASSAGE ON BERLIN AND
GERMANY

REFS: (A) STATE 294521; (B) BONN 20370

BEGIN SUMMARY. BONN GROUP WAS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT
ON US AMENDMENTS TO COMMUNIQUE PASSAGE AS PROPOSED
IN REF (A) AND DECIDED TO PLACE BOTH FORMULATIONS --
"DETENTE" AND "RELAXATION OF TENSIONS" -- IN SQUARE
BRACKETS FOR RESOLUTION IN BRUSSELS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DECEMBER 3 BONN GROUP MEETING, US REP REOPENED
QUESTION OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE PASSAGE ON BERLIN AND
GERMANY AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AS INSTRUCTED IN
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PARA 1, REF (A).

2. UK REP (HITCH) RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO REPORT US PROPOSALS TO LONDON. HOWEVER, HE SAW NO CHANCE FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON A REVISED TEXT IN THE BONN GROUP. BECAUSE OF HIBBERT'S INTENTION, REPORTED IN REF (B), TO REOPEN DISCUSSION OF PARA C OF THE DRAFT AT THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING, HITCH EXPECTED TO HEAR NOTHING MORE FROM LONDON BEFORE THEN ON THE COMMUNIQUE.

3. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) REACTED TO US PROPOSAL BY SAYING FRENCH OF COURSE WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THE WORD DETENTE AND HE THEREFORE COULD NOT AGREE TO THE CHANGE. HOWEVER, AS THE PHRASEOLOGY IS PART OF A MORE GENERAL PROBLEM BEING DEALT WITH IN BRUSSELS, BOISSIEU SAID HE SAW LITTLE PURPOSE IN DEALING WITH IT FURTHER IN THE BONN GROUP. BOISSIEU DID SUGGEST AS A COMPROMISE USING "RELAXATION OF TENSIONS" IN PARA D IF "DETENTE" WERE LEFT IN PARA C. ASKED BY US REP IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO REVERSE THAT COMPROMISE (PER PARA 2, REF A), BOISSIEU DECLINED AND SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD BE LEFT TO BRUSSELS TO DEAL WITH IT. ONCE A DECISION WAS REACHED THERE ON THE COMMUNIQUE AS A WHOLE, THE BERLIN PASSAGE WOULD FALL IN LINE.

4. FRG REP (HENZE) SAID THE FRG COULD ACCEPT EITHER "DETENTE" OR "RELAXATION OF TENSIONS." IN EITHER CASE, IT WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO GERMAN AS "ENTSPANNUNG."

5. AFTER BRIEF FURTHER DISCUSSION, IT WAS DECIDED TO PUT BOTH FORMULATIONS -- "DETENTE" AND "RELAXATION OF TENSIONS" -- INTO SQUARE BRACKETS IN TEXT, LEAVING THE QUESTION TO BE RESOLVED IN BRUSSELS AT THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING.

6. COMMENT: WHILE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE WITH FRENCH REP, HITCH'S POSITION THAT HIS HANDS WERE TIED AND THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO GET NEW INSTRUCTIONS MADE IT USELESS TO PURSUE THE MATTER. IT APPEARS THAT THE

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BRITISH WILL NOT IN ANY CASE AUTHORIZE GIVING A TEXT TO THE REST OF NATO BEFORE THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING. STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, COMMUNIQUE, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN20481
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-0440
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761272/aaaackhs.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 294521, 76 BONN 20370
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATOMIN: COMMUNIQUE PASSAGE ON BERLIN AND GERMANY
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, US, UK, FR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006